

## HOLIDAY BOOKS.

**EVENINGS WITH THE SACRED POETS: A Series of**  
Quiet Talks about the Singers and their Songs.  
By the Author of "The Festival of Song." 12mo.,  
pp. 496. A. D. F. Randolph & Co.

Mr. Frederick Saunders, the author of this volume,  
has won no little popularity as a graceful essayist,

This is a goodbook similar in outward garb to Mr. and Mrs. Stoddard's "Remember," which we noticed a little while ago. It belongs to a class of annuals which has been nearly driven out of existence by over-production, but a good specimen now and then still makes an appearance, and the good specimens are always welcome. To this volume Miss Alice Cary contributes the opening story, called "The Grand House and Its Owner," and the poem of "Speaking Eyes." What further share she may have had in the composition, and how much she has added to the usefulness of the volume, we have no means of knowing, as a large part of the book is anonymous. The various articles seem to have been collected and arranged with excellent taste, poems and short stories mingling on nearly equal terms. We have a sketch by Mr. Whittier, a story of Siberian life by Col. W. N. Knox, a tale by Tom Hood, poetry by W. W. Story, George Arnold, and others, and much else that is good as well as amusing. The engravings cannot be particularly commended; but

If all good Americans go to Paris, before or after death, it is not natural that they should desire to know something about it in advance. There are Guide Books enough for *Paris* and *Metamorphosis*, but there is no book which has been published in this country under the title of "*An American Family in Paris*," is a novelty. It may be characterized briefly as a Child's Hand Book, its chief object being to describe the city in general, and its most noted localities in particular, taking in at the same time its environs. The writer professes to perceive the value of accuracy, and while trusting to memory for such passages of history as are familiar to grown persons, and to the same authority for some local descriptions to which the recollections of more than one visit in Paris have contributed, he consulted such trustworthy authorities as Martine Thierry, Madame Campan, besides *Smith's History of the Huguenots*, and White's "*Massacre of St. Bartholomew*." We are not prepared to vouch for the accuracy of the work without more examination than we can at present bestow upon it; but

The line has good sound, like many of Dryden's, but experience has long since shown that there is no truth in it. The "noble savage" is a myth. He has been an interesting one, however, to poets and romancers, or we should have had no *Yamoyens* and *Songs of Hiawatha*, and no *Leather Stocking Tales*; and if there wasn't still some interest in the notion, or in refuting it, we should probably not have had three recent juveniles. Two belong in a set, "The Frontier Series," now in the course of preparation by different writers (Lee & Shepard), and in due time to be published for the edification of our children. First we have *Planting the Wilderness*, by James D. McCabe, Jr. This is the history of a Virginia farmer, who, just before the breaking out of the Revolution, emigrated with his family from London County to the banks of the Ohio, then a wilderness, where he built himself a log cabin, and proceeded to cultivate the virgin soil. The region was swarming with Indians, and the life led by the settlers was one of constant excitement and danger, the men carrying their guns with them into the fields, the women keeping guard at home with doors barricaded, while the children made themselves handy with whatever weapons they could collect. The sharp crack of a rifle in the woods, and a red skin tumbled from behind a tree with a bullet in his brain; the whizzing of a tomahawk, and some incautious hunter was disabled, and scalped before he knew it. Cattle were stolen, cabins were fired, and the whites would run for the nearest fort, where they would be besieged by their way foes. "Planting the Wilderness" abounds in adventures of this sort, which are

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